RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, 22nd October, 2008/30 Asvina, 1930 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,
MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

REFERENCE BY CHAIR

Successful Launch of Chandrayan-I to Moon

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, as you are aware, today, in the morning, Chandrayan-I, India's first Moon spacecraft, was put in transfer orbit around the Earth by Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, PSLV-C2, from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota. It was, indeed, a moment of pride for all of us when our scientists and engineers associated with the project achieved this remarkable feat. On behalf of the House and on my own behalf, I congratulate Chairman of ISRO and his team of scientists, technicians, engineers and all those who are associated with the project for it was their hard work which led to the successful launch.

श्री एस.एस. अहलुवालिया (झारखण्ड): सर, चन्द्रमा तक जाने के लिए standing ovation होना चाहिए था।

श्री सभापति: पहुंच जाने दीजिए।

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

औद्योगिक प्रशिक्षण संस्थानों के लिए क्षेत्रीय नोडल एजेंसियों का पुनर्गठन

*61. **श्री बलवंत *उर्फ़* बाल आपटे**: ††
श्री श्री गोपाल व्यास:
क्या श्रम और रोजगार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार औद्योगिक प्रशिक्षण संस्थानों (आई टी आई) को राष्ट्रीय व्यावसायिक प्रशिक्षण परिषद् (एन सी वी टी) के साथ सम्बद्ध करने के लिए क्षेत्रीय नोडल एजेंसियों का पुनर्गठन करने पर विचार कर रही है;

(ख) नए राज्यों के बनने के फलस्वरूप क्या सरकार का उत्तराखण्ड, छत्तीसगढ़ और झारखंड के लिए नई क्षेत्रीय नोडल एजेंसियां गठित करने का विचार है; और

(ग) क्षेत्रीय नोडल एजेंसियों को राज्यों से वर्ष 2007-08 और 2008-09 में नए औद्योगिक प्रशिक्षण संस्थानों की स्थापना हेतु कितने प्रस्ताव प्राप्त हुए और इनमें कितने नए संस्थान स्थापित किए गए और उनका ब्यौरा क्या है?

श्रम और रोजगार मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री ऑस्कर फर्नांडिस): (क) से (ग) एक विवरण सभा पटल पर रखा गया है।

विवरण

(क) से (ग) औद्योगिक प्रशिक्षण संस्थानों को राष्ट्रीय व्यावसायिक प्रशिक्षण परिषद् के साथ सम्बद्ध करने के लिए कोई क्षेत्रीय नोडल एजेंसियां नहीं है और न ही ऐसी नोडल एजेंसियों की स्थापना का कोई प्रस्ताव है। फिर भी, राज्य सरकार के साथ संबंधन प्रक्रिया का समन्वय कानपुर, फरीदाबाद, चेन्नई, कोलकाता, हैदराबाद तथा मुंबई

†सभा में यह प्रश्न श्री बलवंत उ र्फ बाल आपटे द्वारा पूछा गया

स्थित छह क्षेत्रीय शिक्षुता प्रशिक्षण निदेशालयों (आर डी ए टीज) द्वारा किया जाता है। उत्तराखंड एवं छत्तीसगढ़ नामक नए राज्य आर डी ए टी कानपुर के क्षेत्राधिकार तथा झारखंड राज्य आर डी ए टी, कोलकाता के क्षेत्राधिकार में आता है।

Reconstitution of zonal nodal agencies for ITI's

†*61 SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:††

SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to State:

(a) whether Government is considering to reconstitute zonal nodal agencies for affiliation of Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) to the National Council for Vocational Training (NCVT);

(b) following carving out of new States, whether Government proposes to constitute new zonal nodal agencies for Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand; and

(c) the number of proposals for setting up of new ITIs from States received by zonal nodal agencies in the years 2007-08 and 2008-09, along with the number and details of new institutes set up thereupon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) There are no zonal nodal agencies for affiliation of Industrial Training Institutes to the National Council for Vocational Training nor is there any proposal to set up such nodal agencies. However, coordination of the affiliation process with the State Government is done by Six Regional Directorates of Apprenticeship Training (RDATs) located at Kanpur, Faridabad, Chennai, Kolkata, Hyderabad & Mumbai and one Foreman Training Institute at Bangalore. New States of Uttarakhand and Chhattisgarh come under the jurisdiction of RDAT Kanpur and the State of Jharkhand comes under the jurisdiction of RDAT Kolkata.

SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE: Sir, the statement says that there are no zonal nodal agencies. Probably, my use of the word 'popularly known' is not necessary. You have said that you have six Regional Directorates of Apprenticeship Training located at various places including Kanpur. Sir, the idea is when the application is made, it is processed by the State and, then, it is sent to the Centre through these regional agencies. Now, the record of the regional agency at Kanpur is so dismal that when 100, 150, 170 applications are cleared by the other agencies, this nodal agency for the States of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Uttarakhand has cleared hardly three applications when there are sixty applications pending there!

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the supplementary?

SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE: Sir, in a Sub-Committee meeting in February, the hon. Minister had assured that the applications would be cleared immediately when they were received and, in any case, the ITIs would be opened before the opening of the academic year. That was the anxiety. In spite of this...

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

††The Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Balwant *Alias* Bal Apte

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the question?

SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE: I am coming to the question, Sir. In so far as Kanpur regional centre is concerned, applications are not processed, inspection is not completed for months together. How does the Minister propose to deal with this laxity when we are assured that we are going to have 1000 or...?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us have the answer now.

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: Sir, the process is slightly different. The applications will have to be recommended by the State Government and then only these are processed at the Central level. If there are deficiencies at the Kanpur centre, we are definitely willing to look into those. But the fact of the matter is that any recommendation, before it is taken up at the national level, is processed, by the State and forwarded to the Centre. I will definitely look into it if there is any deficiency at the Kanpur centre.

SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE: Sir, I must clarify that the applications about which I have mentioned, have already been processed by the State and sent to the Kanpur centre. The delay is not at the State level. The delay is at the Central level, in spite of the assurance by the hon. Minister. Sir, my second supplementary is regarding the entire approach to this Skill Development Mission. The Knowledge Commission has said several things and the Knowledge Commission has publicly complained that so far as the operational part of the Knowledge Commission's recommendations is concerned, the Human Resource Development Ministry is totally non-cooperative and, therefore, nothing is proceeding. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is your question related to the answer? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE: My question is related to this and to the recommendations of the Knowledge Commission in so far as the ITIs are concerned. The Knowledge Commission has recommended that we will be spending Rs.31,000 crores by way of fund and there will be 50,000 Skill Development Centres. For that purpose, ITIs are being opened in the public sector as well as by the private agencies. My question is: Whether this amount is going to be spent on the opening of new ITIs so that a large number of skilled manpower will be utilised in this country and abroad? Whether the Minister has any plan to implement these recommendations so that the idea of creating skills ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please don't make statements. Ask quick supplementary questions. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE: I would be obliged if this approach is universal and no question goes on beyond two minutes, which I am not doing. My question is: Whether he proposes to implement the specific recommendations of the Knowledge Commission in so far as the skill development is concerned?

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: Straightaway, we are starting 1500 ITIs in the country where, in the blocks, there is no ITI at the present moment. Also, straightaway, we are going to start 5,000 Skill Development Centres in the country as a first phase and to be followed by the numbers you have mentioned, that is, 50,000 centres. This is the commitment of the Prime Minister and we will be definitely doing that.

श्री श्रीगोपाल व्यास: सभापति महोदय, माननीय मंत्री जी ने प्रश्न के 'ग' भाग का उत्तर ही नहीं दिया, जिसमें यह पूछा गया था कि कुल कितने प्रस्ताव प्राप्त हुए हैं। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से आपके माध्यम से जानना चाहता हूं, क्योंकि मुझे जानकारी है, मैं पिछले दिनों छत्तीसगढ़ के उद्यमियों के बीच में था और सब लोग इस प्रकार के skilled workers की कमी महसूस कर रहे हैं, क्या माननीय मंत्री जी कृपया बताएंगे कि छत्तीसगढ़ राज्य से अनुशंसा किए गए कितने निजी ITIs inspection के लिए लम्बित हैं और आप कब तक उनका inspection कानपुर के द्वारा करा देंगे?

श्री ऑस्कर फर्नांडिस: सर, कानपुर के बारे में मैंने अभी बताया कि यदि कोई कमी है तो हम उसको ठीक कराने की पूरी कोशिश करेंगे। पिछले तीन महीनों में हम अभी तक 350 ITIs की approval दे चुके हैं और मेरे ख्याल से अगले 15 दिनों के अंदर और 300 ITIs की approval हम दे देंगे। अभी तक हमारे पास सिर्फ 100 applications pending हैं, cut-off October तक है और इस महीने में और 300 approval हम जरूर देंगे।

SHRI N.K. SINGH: Is the Government contemplating to change the curriculum of the newly constituted ITIs to make skill inculcation in consonance with emerging demands?

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: Sir, our entire emphasis is to upgrade ITIs and we have started a process by upgrading 100 ITIs out of the national funds and 400 ITIs out of the World Bank assistance. Twenty-five per cent of the contribution is given by the States and seventy-five per cent contribution is given by the Centre, and we would like to upgrade 500 ITIs and thereafter 1396 ITIs will be upgraded by financial assistance from the financial institutions to the extent of Rs.2.5 crores.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Sir, the hon. Minister has said that upgrading the existing ITIs to cope with emerging trend is the policy of the Government. In the light of this, I would like to ask him whether he has received representation from the Government of Kerala for the upgradation of existing ITIs. If so, what are the details and what action has he taken?

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: Sir, we have received, or, rather we are promoting this particular programme not only in Kerala but also in all the States, including the North Eastern States, I am happy to say that we have responded to all the recommendations of Kerala and they will be getting their due share.

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि: सभापति जी, वैश्वीकरण के इस ज़माने में ऐसा लगता है कि निजी कंपनियों और निजी कारखानों का ज़माना आ गया है। अभी उद्योग मंत्री जी यहां बैठे हुए हैं, क्या माननीय श्रम मंत्री जी निजी कंपनियों और कारखानों को बाध्य करेंगे कि वे आस-पास के areas के जो विस्थापित लोग हैं, जो अपनी जमीन देते हैं, जहां पर घरेलू उद्योग लगता है और निजी कंपनी स्थापित होती है, क्या उन पर प्रैशर डाला जाएगा ताकि आस-पास के ग्रामीण नौजवानों का skill development किया जा सके? क्या आप ज्यादा से ज्यादा ITIs लगाने के लिए उन पर दबाव डालेंगे? मेरे प्रश्न का दूसरा भाग यह है कि जो सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र है, पब्लिक सैक्टर है, इसमें ITI से गरीब लड़के apprenticeship लेते हैं, क्या सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र को इसके लिए बाध्य किया जाएगा कि वहां पर जिन लड़कों ने apprenticeship ली है, उनको उस कंपनी में नौकरी दी जाए?

श्री ऑस्कर फर्नांडिस: सभापति जी, अभी देश में स्थिति ऐसी है कि हमने काफी ITIs को visit किया है और वहां जब हमने स्टूडेंट्स से बात की है, तो उन्होंने हमें बताया है कि we are getting our job. We are getting placements. देश में technically qualified, well qualified बच्चों की shortage है, इसलिए expansion programme में हमने यह कार्यक्रम शुरू किया है और apprenticeship कोर्स जिन्होंने किया है, उन लोगों के लिए

भी पब्लिक सैक्टर में और प्राइवेट सैक्टर में काम पाने का ज्यादा मौका है। हम अपने कोर्सेज इस तरह से डिज़ाइन कर रहे हैं ताकि इंडस्ट्री डॉयरेक्टली उनसे फायदा ले और इंडस्ट्री को भी हम अपने मैनेजमेंट में शामिल कर रहे हैं।

Arjun Tank Project

*62. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: ††
SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in spite of 36 years spent in Arjun Tank's design and development, in December, 2007 it failed the winter trials;

(b) if so, whether the mandatory procedure of comparative trials with Russian tanks has been done, which is very crucial before the induction of Arjun Tank into Army;

(c) the perception of defence experts, who normally look ahead for 20 years while inducting Main Battle Tanks, about Arjun Tank which failed the winter trials; and

(d) the fate of Arjun Tank Project of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (d) The winter trials of Main Battle Tank (MBT) were not a failure. The project for development of MBT was taken up in August 1972 as part of GSQR 326. The project was approved by CCPA in its meeting help on 26 March 1974. The Qualitative Requirement (QR) was revised as 431 in Oct 1980 and final GSQR No. 467 was issued in Nov 1985 with incorporation of number of technological and operational changes. The project was successfully completed as MBT Arjun and closed in March 1995 at the end of 10 years with delivery of 12 prototypes and 15 pre-production series tanks. The pre-production tanks have undergone extensive user evaluation between 1993 and 1998. These tanks have covered 70,000 Km of automotive trials and fired 7000 rounds of ammunitions cumulatively with an average of 4600 Km and 460 rounds per tank. Only after successful trials, army placed an indent for 124 number of MBT, Arjun to Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) in March 2000. Fourteen tanks have been handed over to Army, and 85 tanks are under various stages of production. Out of 14 tanks delivered to Army, 2 tanks have undergone Accelerated User Cum Reliability Trials (AUCRT) in five phases during Dec 2007 onwards. Certain defects were observed in the engine, automotive system and gun barrel, which have been analysed and rectified. The tanks have been subjected to trials covering 8000 Km and firing 830 rounds. Firing accuracies have also been demonstrated.

It is not a mandatory procedure to do comparative trials with Russian tanks before the MBT, Arjun is inducted into Army. However, it will be a planned activity after the army is equipped with one squadron of MBT Arjun.

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††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati Syeda Anwara Taimur